



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3385 • (703) 841-4300

General Gordon R. Sullivan
United States Army (Ret.)
President

6 January 2005

03-133

RECEIVED

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

MAR 11 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the 100,000 members of the Association of the United States Army, I urge the Commission to defeat proposed new regulations that would impose higher charges and fees on pre-paid calling cards. This increase would place a financial burden on our nation's military men and women serving in the United States and around the world. Military members make great use of calling cards; for many of them, it is the only method at their disposal to keep in contact with their families.

In fact, ninety-five percent of military members use calling cards. Last year this accounted for over a billion minutes of calls home to families. The proposed increase would cut the usefulness of pre-paid minutes by 20 percent.

Pre-paid calling cards are an important lifeline for our military. Now is not the time to increase the costs when our military is serving in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and other locations around the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired.

GRS/WBL/djs

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE